

**EMPLOYER POLICY & OPERATIONS GROUP**  
**TIMELINE FOR FUTURE GUIDANCE REGARDING EMPLOYER/UNION SPONSORED PLANS**

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Projected Date of Guidance</b>
Waivers of Medicare prescription drug program requirements for Employer/Union Plan Sponsors	Late January/Early February 2005
Guidance relating to actuarial equivalence methodology, including simplified actuarial methods	Late January/Early February 2005
Application of retiree drug subsidy to account-based health plans and similar arrangements	February 2005
Creditable coverage notice guidance including form, content, timing, and sample language	March 2005
Forms and related instructions for retiree drug subsidy application and actuarial attestation	Spring 2005
Guidance relating to data submissions and payments for retiree drug subsidy	Spring 2005

***For More Information:*** You can contact the Employer Policy & Operations Group (EPOG) at [epog@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:epog@cms.hhs.gov). To be notified by email about CMS news and activities of interest to employer and union plan sponsors, subscribe to the MMA employer/union issues listserv at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/maillinglists/>.